

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 813

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ann and McDonald Crosby of Joppa Mountain Pottery.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those venerable and beloved individuals of our communities who, through their talents, compassion, and industriousness, bring happiness to others and contribute to the vast tapestry of artistry and humanity which is Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ann and McDonald Crosby are two such individuals who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all of their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the artistic couple own and operate Joppa Mountain Pottery, which they established in 1995, the same year they married on their property in Rutledge; and

WHEREAS, since then, the Crosbys' business has become so well known that the road it is located on was changed from Mountain Road to Joppa Mountain Road; and

WHEREAS, Ann and McDonald Crosby bring a wealth of love and their own unique experiences in pottery to the endeavor; Mrs. Crosby owned a ceramic shop for several years in Macon, Georgia, and Mr. Crosby was making pottery as early as second grade and earned a fine arts degree at the University of Tennessee after deciding to make a career out of clay; and

WHEREAS, the pottery sold in their store is handmade by either Ann or McDonald Crosby or one of the staff and includes items such as raku vases, soup mugs, holiday figurines, ornaments, pots, vases, and clay figures; and

WHEREAS, Joppa Mountain Pottery is truly a family business: McDonald serves as the master potter; Ann sculpts the whimsical figures and paints decorative designs on pieces; Ann's son, Shane Fowler, creates figures and specializes in making the raku vases; the Crosbys' daughter, Stormy and artist Sharon Maddix make pottery; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Crosby mixes the pottery's glazes, using up to fourteen ingredients, steady composure, and a lot of patience to get the right hue; and

WHEREAS, the Crosbys gather inspiration for their pottery designs and decorations from the mountains of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Crosbys share their art by exhibiting at regional art shows and festivals, including Knoxville's Artsclamation and the Rossini Festival, and in various stores in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Crosby exemplify the spirit and allegiance to family craft, and community that are characteristic of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Ann and McDonald Crosby and the Joppa Mountain Pottery staff are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Ann and McDonald Crosby and the staff of Joppa Mountain Pottery for their outstanding creativity, their artistic contributions to the fabric of this State and their laudable participation in the Clinch Mountain community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.